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INFORMATION REPORT

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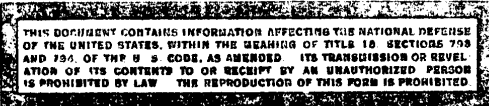
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COUNTRY **East Germany**

SUBJECT **East German Supply Situation**

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. In the Halle area, there was a critical shortage of fats, meat and sugar products in June 1955. Ration coupons were generally honored, but only 60% of high-quality meat products, such as bacon, pork, and special sausage (salame) due on ration cards were issued. Flour, coffee, and liquor continued to be bottlenecks. Supplies of these commodities were not available in state-owned shops. It was not expected that the situation would improve in this field.
2. The reactions of the East Germans to the present supply difficulties may be compared to the situation existing prior to 17 June 1953. The food issued on ration coupons per month is adequate only for two to three weeks. Because of the inadequate supplies available in state-owned shops, East Germans are forced to make illegal purchases in the country. This situation partly explains the high percentage of sick workers in the individual factories. In an industrial plant which employs about 800 persons, approximately 10% of the labor force is sick at any given time.
3. In June 1955, it was learned in a central government agency in East Berlin that butter was henceforth to contain 25% water instead of the 20% prescribed.
4. In the second half of June 1955, the food situation in Weimar was rather critical. Vegetables and fruit were not obtainable and the bread was of very poor quality.
5. Prior to early July, it was learned in Gotha that the basic and supplementary food ration cards were fully honored. A total of 1,350 grams of meat, 1,600 grams of sugar, 900 grams of fat were issued against coupons of the basic food ration card. A total of 1,950 grams of meat, 1,800 grams of sugar, 1,450 grams of fat were delivered against coupons of the basic and supplementary food ration card B. A total of 1,950 grams of meat, 1,800 grams of sugar, and 1,450 grams of fat were issued against coupons of the basic and supplementary food ration card C. Children up to five years old were issued 1,600 grams of sugar, 900 grams of meat, and 900 grams of butter; while children from 9 to 15 years old were issued 1,600 grams sugar, 1,050 grams of meat, and 1,050 grams of fat.

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CLASSIFICATION

STATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NAVY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NSRB	DISTRIBUTION															
ARMY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AIR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FBI																

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6. Only pork is usually obtainable on the free market. Beef is very scarce and mutton almost never obtainable. Butter is occasionally obtainable at state-owned shops at a price of 5 DME for 250 grams. Since recently an inferior type of butter called "mixed butter" has been offered at the price of 4.4 DME for 250 grams. This type of butter is disliked by the population because it is believed that hard coal derivatives are mixed with it. Three different types of margarine are offered at different prices, but this margarine cannot be spread on bread. The sale of sugar discontinued in mid-May. Bee-honey and synthetic honey are not obtainable, while jam is available in adequate quantities. 100 grams of chocolate are sold at a price of 6 DME.
7. Since April 1955, almost only black rye bread, which is mostly moist, has been offered for sale. White bread and rolls are hardly obtainable and potatoes are in short supply. Milk is generally issued only to small children for ration cards; if it is sold on the free market, a price of 1.12 DME is charged per liter. No condensed milk is obtainable. Cheese is in very short supply and, if obtainable at all, of poor quality. Most of the so-called Schmelzkaese, which is seldom offered, was imported. Eggs are offered occasionally at a price of 0.40 to 0.45 DME each. Noodles are available in adequate quantities and in relatively good quality. Salt water fish is hardly obtainable.
8. During the spring, salad was obtainable in adequate quantities while there was a scarcity of cucumbers and tomatoes, and asparagus and cauliflower were not to be obtained at all. Fruit is in short supply. The small quantities of canned fruit are offered at high prices. Fruits from the south are very scarce. No coffee or cocoa is offered for sale but tea may be bought. Except for Soviet crabs and cod liver, delicacies are not offered on the free market. Cigarettes are obtainable in adequate quantities, including some of Chinese origin. Cigars are, however, in short supply. The quality of the liquor offered has deteriorated. Only a standard type of beer with a 10 % Stammwuerze (wort) and thin beer with a 4 1/2% Stammwuerze are produced. Malt beer is not available.
9. Queues of up to 100 people were frequently seen in front of state-owned shops and at places where farmers offer their products. These people openly voiced their discontent about the critical food situation.
10. Except for sugar and legumes, food was available in adequate quantities in the three cooperative shops and the one state-owned shop located in Staaken. In the line of meat, mostly pork was offered. Adequate quantities of canned fish and eggs were available. Queues were seldom observed in front of food shops.
11. There was no shortage of consumer goods although the quality left much to be desired.
12. In early June 1955, it was observed at Wismar that the supply situation in the field of textiles and footwear had continued to deteriorate. In early 1955, West German and Swedish footwear was still offered for sale. In June almost only shoes of pig skin were obtainable.
13. In early June 1955, no flour was obtainable at Wismar. Butter was only offered for sale at cooperative shops. Beef was last obtainable in January 1955.
14. In June 1955, a total of 1,500 grams of meat, 900 grams of fat, and 1,800 grams of sugar were issued to the normal consumer (Normalverbraucher). Ration coupons were fully honored. Sugar, wheat-flour, fruit from the South, coffee

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and chocolate were not obtainable on the free market.

15. This winter individual persons will be issued 10 hundredweights of briquettes. Couples will receive 12 hundredweights and families with children 16 hundredweights. Every family is also entitled to buy 1 hundredweight of fire wood. Raw brown coal is obtainable on the free market. The briquettes delivered are of poor quality.
16. East Germans are very dissatisfied about the critical food situation and they voice their discontent fully when lining up for butter, sugar, or other special food deliveries. Brawls are a frequent occurrence
17. In June 1955, it was observed at Elgersburg, Thuringia, that food ration cards were fully honored. Except for coffee, all types of foodstuff were obtainable without difficulty in state-owned and cooperative shops. There was no scarcity in the field of household goods and other industrial products. The quantity of foodstuff obtainable against ration cards was not reduced during the last year.
18. In early June 1955, it was observed in Weimar that ration cards were fully honored. Only small quantities of food were obtainable in state-owned shops. Farmers were observed offering small quantities of beef for sale between 0400 and 0500. About 200 buyers were lining up for this meat and only 50 at most could buy any. The quantities of food obtainable against food ration cards were not cut during the last few months. East Germans frequently voiced their discontent about the critical food situation.


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